

PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. ROC920010293US1
MPS Ref. No.: IBMK10293

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 1, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 1, 2005. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. Claims 1-29 remain pending following entry of this response. Claims 1 and 11 have been amended. Applicants submit that the amendments do not introduce new matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7, 10-21 and 24-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Ip* (US 2003/0046339 A 1). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection as follows.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

In this case, *Ip* does not disclose "each and every element as set forth in the claim". For example, with regards to claim 1, *Ip* does not disclose a rack comprising a device memory associated with each device on the rack, the device memory containing a unique identifier to identify the device. *Ip* discloses the use of sensors to monitor the status of each server on a rack (Page 2, para. [0023]). However, *Ip* does not disclose a device memory with each device on a rack, with the device memory containing a unique identifier that identifies each device on/in a rack. Instead, *Ip* discloses the electrical coupling of a rack connector to a server connector to identify a device in a rack. *Ip* does not disclose using a device memory containing a unique identifier to identify the device, as claimed.

With regards to claim 11, *Ip* does not disclose a rack comprising a rack memory associated with the rack, the rack memory containing a unique identifier to identify the

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rack. *Ip* discloses a data collection unit that is associated with each rack to monitor the status of a rack using rack sensors. However, *Ip* does not disclose the use of a rack memory that contains a unique identifier to identify the rack, as claimed.

With regards to claim 13, 14 and 24, *Ip* does not disclose the issuing of a retrieve command to one or more memories connected to a microcontroller in response to receiving a request command from the microcontroller, the retrieve command being configured to retrieve inventory information from the one or more memories, as claimed. In fact, *Ip* does not disclose the issuing of a retrieve command to one or more memories at all. Instead, *Ip* discloses a method to collect information from sensors to monitor the status of devices on a rack. *Ip* does not disclose the retrieval of inventory information relating to a device from one or more memories. The only information retrieved in *Ip* relates to the functional status of a device collected by sensors that sense information such as temperature, power supply status etc. as opposed to inventory information (e.g. make, model, etc.), as claimed.

Therefore, Applicants submit claims 1, 11, 13, 14 and 24 and the claims that depend therefrom are believed to be allowable, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 8, 9, 22 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 193(a) as being unpatentable over *Ip* in view of *Little et al.* (US Pub. No. US 2001/0011353 A1, hereinafter *Little*).

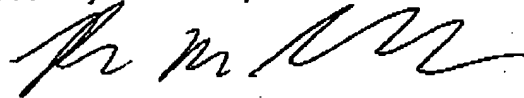
Because claims 8, 9, 22 and 23 depend from claims Applicants submit are allowable in light of the arguments made in the previous section, Applicants submit claims 8, 9, 22 and 23 are also allowable, and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

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Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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